

From: Daniel Coner, N8IGT, Extra Class Amateur Operator

To whom this may concern:

I have been an amateur operator since 1987. In 1987 I learned morse code at 5WPM for the Element 1 exam. It took me no more than 10 - 15 hours to learn. Recently I upgraded to Extra Class and became interested in CW over HF but could not remember my code very well. It took me one evening and most of the next morning to fully relearn 5WPM.

As a child (circa 1970), my father had a licensed CB station (I don't recall the call sign). Back then, CB was quite useful and fun. Within a decade or so, no license was required and the Citizens Band became a quagmire of chaotic activity resulting in excessive QRM and nearly useless communication range.

PLEASE, PLEASE don't allow this to happen with the amateur bands - at least not all of them. I understand and fully support anything to strengthen the amateur community, but I truly believe that morse code must be a requirement at some level of privileges - perhaps general class and above or at least extra class.

Just as with Citizens Band, I believe that as soon as an individual can legally BUY an HF transceiver, regardless of the earned privileges, many careless and thoughtless individuals will destroy the amateur bands operating at illegal power and/or frequency. Band Plans will become a joke.

Ultimately, this may lead to the demise of amateur radio not just for American citizens, but for the entire WORLD. Please take a moment, tune to a popular CB channel (i.e. 19) and imagine sitting at a station in a remote location, perhaps in Africa, listening to the QRM on the 20 meter band coming from the USA! What were we thinking???

Sincerely Submitted,
Daniel Coner
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